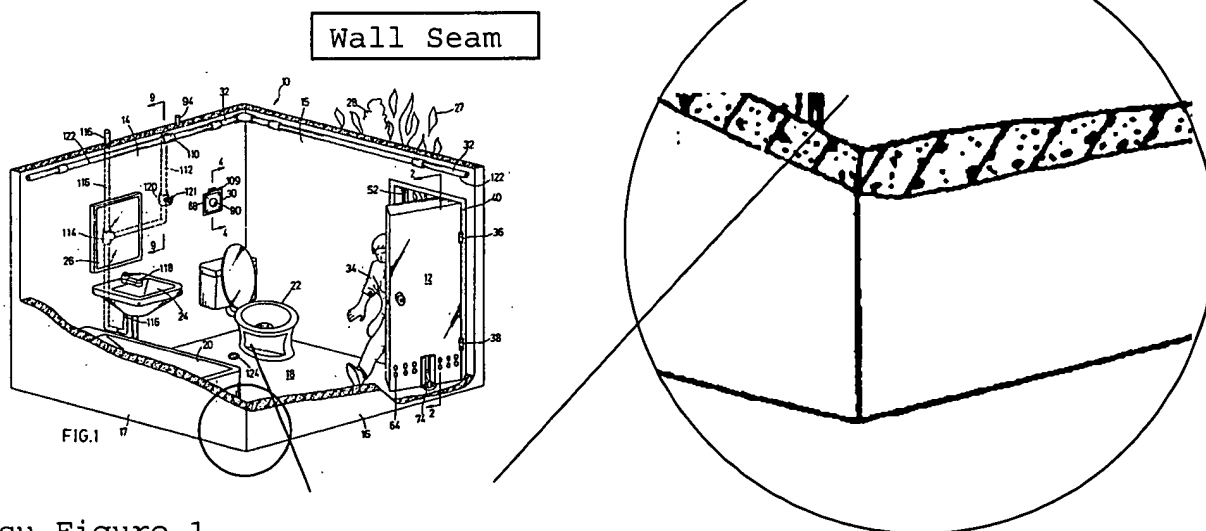


unitarily formed by molds and having a door frame opening integrally formed in the poured concrete body. A door is attached to the door frame rendering the entire structure substantially vapor tight. The Hsu and/or Trice references, alone or in combination do not disclose the feature of a cast housing body unitarily formed from molds with a door frame opening therethrough.

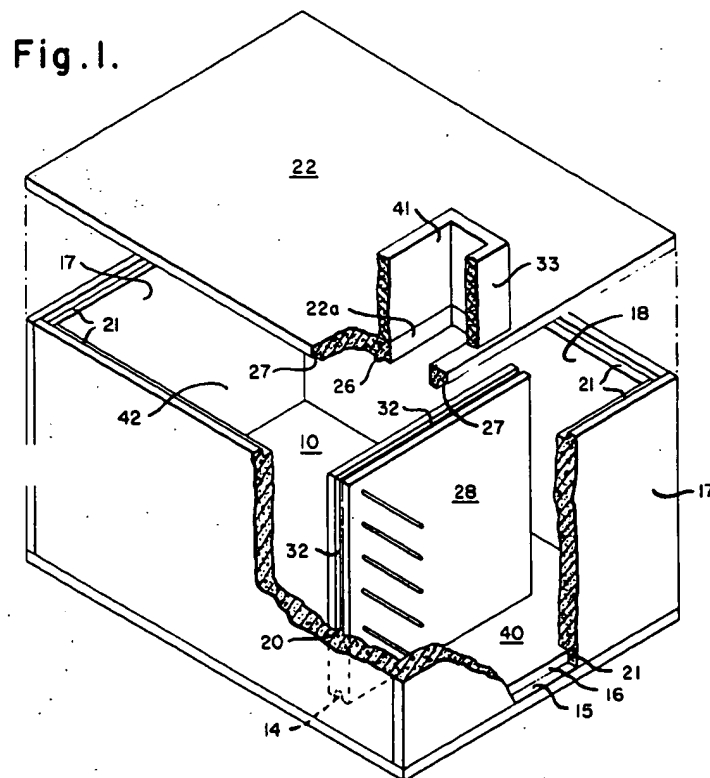
Hsu is completely silent on a housing body unitarily formed from molds. Hsu discloses and claims a fire-escaping room comprising four walls, a floor and a roof, but fails to teach that such walls, floor and roof were cast as a single piece. In fact, as shown below in Figure 1 of Hsu's drawings, Hsu teaches away from a cast housing unitarily formed from a mold by disclosing a seam between the side walls of the room:



Hsu Figure 1

Hsu's drawings suggest that the walls are formed separately and somehow subsequently joined together. Additionally, the roof portion is not even shown in the drawings which further suggests that the roof is a separate piece from the rest of the room. Thus, Hsu fails to provide Applicants' invention as claimed.

The Trice reference also fails to disclose a room cast from a single piece. Trice discloses a bomb and fall-out shelter formed by joining together the slab walls. In fact Trice teaches away from a cast room by explicitly stating "[t]he device is ready for use as soon **as assembled** without any of the delays for curing or for forming buildings or the like which characterize cast in situ shelters." Col. 3, Ll. 24-29 (emphasis added). As shown below in Figure 1 of Trice, Trice teaches that its shelter is formed from multiple pieces:



The Trice reference fails to teach, disclose or even suggest a cast housing body unitarily formed from molds. Thus, the Trice reference fails to supply the deficiencies of the Hsu reference and neither cited reference, alone or in combination, discloses Applicants' invention as claimed.

Applicants urge that the invention is nonobvious based on the Hsu and/or Trice references, which disclose concrete panels adjoined to form the walls, ceilings and/or floors of the room, with no mention of a housing body unitarily formed. The Hsu and Trice disclosures are opposite to and teach away from Applicants' unitarily formed structure by providing a room formed by joining separate panels. Accordingly, Applicants urge that claim 27, and the claims that depend therefrom, are nonobvious over the Hsu and/or Trice references.

Applicants note that the Examiner previously cited Guardiani as teaching "a modular vault comprising a unitary housing body (A-H) of monolithically poured concrete, see Figure 6 and column 6, lines 19-22, a pre-cast roof slab, see Figure 4, pre-cast side and end walls (12a), and a pre-cast floor slab, see Figure 6, and a door opening, see Figure 4." Office Action mailed February 25, 2000. However, a pre-cast roof slab, side and end walls, and floor slab do not provide Applicants' cast housing body unitarily formed from molds. In contrast, as indicated by the Examiner, each slab is separately pre-cast and subsequently united, rather than unitarily cast as provided in Applicants' claims. Additionally, as indicated in virtually every claim mentioning the prefabricated modules (or rooms), Guardiani's modules have **interconnecting** surfaces. Col. 7, Ll. 48; Col. 8, Ll. 5; Col. 8, Ll. 36; Col. 8, Ll. 54; Col. 9, Ll. 36. Interconnect, from the root word connect meaning to become joined, indicates that portions of the modules or rooms must be connected **after** the separate walls are formed, rather than cast into a unitary form from molds as recited in Applicants' claims, as amended. See MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY, p. 244 (10th Ed. 1995) (copy

provided). Thus, Guardiani teaches away from a unitarily formed housing body and fails, alone or in combination with Hsu and/or Trice, to provide Applicants' claimed invention, as amended.

In view of the above amendments and arguments, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the final rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on Hsu and/or Trice. Applicants further request a review of the claims now pending and request allowance.

No fees are believed due as a result of this reply. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 10-0447 (41241-00006USD1).

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

Jan. 29, 2001

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congruent, *pp. of congruere* (15c) 1: CONGRUOUS 2: superposable so as to be coincident throughout 3: having the difference divisible by a given modulus (12 is ~ to 2 (modulo 2) since $12 - 2 = 2$) — **congruently** *adv*

congruently \kən-ˈgru-ə-lee, kən-ˈ n. *pl.* ties (14c) 1: the quality or state of being congruent or congruous 2: a point of agreement **congruous** \kən-ˈgru-əs/ *adj* [L. *congruus*, fr. *congruere* to come together, agree] (1599) 1: being in agreement, harmony, or correspondence 2: conforming to the circumstances or requirements of a situation: APPROPRIATE (a ~ room to work in — G. B. Shaw) 3: marked or enhanced by harmonious agreement among constituent elements (a ~ theme) — **congruously** *adv* — **congruousness** \kən-ˈgru-əs-ness/ *n* (1570) 1: of or relating to a cone 2: CONICAL — **conic-ity** \kō-ni-si-tee/ *n*

conic *n* (1879) : CONIC SECTION **conical** \kən-ˈni-kəl/ *adj* (1570) : resembling a cone esp. in shape — **conically** \kən-ˈni-kə-lee/ *adv*

conic section *n* (1664) 1: a plane curve, line, pair of intersecting lines, or point that is the intersection of or bounds the intersection of a plane and a cone with two nappes 2: a curve generated by a point which always moves so that the ratio of its distance from a fixed point to its distance from a fixed line is constant



conic section 1: 1 straight lines, 2 circle, 3 ellipse, 4 parabola, 5 hyperbola

conid-ophore \kō-ni-dē-ə-fōr, -fōr/ *n* [NL *conidium* + ISV *-phore*] (1874) : a structure that bears conidia; *specif.* : a specialized hyphal branch of some fungi that produces conidia usu. by the successive cutting off of parts of the sporophore through the growth of septa **conid-ium** \kō-ni-dē-əm/ *n* *pl.* -ia \-dē-ə/ [NL, fr. Gk *konis* dust — more at INCINERATE] (1856) : an asexual spore produced on a conidophore — **conid-ial** \-dē-əl/ *adj*

conifer \kō-nə-fər also kō-ˈ n [ultim. fr. L. *conifer* cone-bearing, fr. *conus* cone + *-fer*] (ca. 1841) : any of an order (Coniferales) of mostly evergreen trees and shrubs including forms (as pines) with true cones and others (as yews) with an arillate fruit — **conifer-ous** \kō-ni-fə-rəs, kə-/ *adj*

coniline \kō-nē-ən/ *n* [G *Koniin*, fr. LL *conium* hemlock, fr. Gk *kōneion*] (1831) : a poisonous alkaloid $C_8H_{17}N$ found in poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

conjectural \kən-ˈjek-chə-rəl, -ˈjek-shrəl/ *adj* (1553) 1: of the nature of or involving or based on conjecture 2: given to conjectures — **conjecturally** *adv*

conjecture \kən-ˈjek-chər/ *n* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF, fr. L *conjectura*, fr. *conjectus*, *pp.* of *conicere*, lit., to throw together, fr. *com-* + *jacere* to throw — more at JET] (14c) 1: obs. : interpretation of omens 2: SUPPOSITION 3: inference from defective or presumptive evidence 4: a conclusion deduced by surmise or guesswork 5: a proposition (as in mathematics) before it has been proved or disproved

conjecture *v* *t*ured; -tur-ing \-ˈjek-chər-ɪŋ/ *v* (15c) 1: to arrive at by conjecture 2: to make conjectures as to ~ *vi* : to form conjectures — **conjecturer** \-ˈjek-chər-ər/ *n*

conjoin \kən-ˈjoin, kən-ˈ v [ME, fr. MF *conjoindre*, fr. L. *conjungere*, fr. *com-* + *jungere* to join — more at Yoke] *v* (14c) : to join together (as separate entities) for a common purpose ~ *vi* : to join together for a common purpose

conjoined \-ˈjoind/ *adj* (1570) : being, coming, or brought together so as to meet, touch, or overlap (~ heads on a coin)

conjoint \-ˈjoint/ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, *pp.* of *conjoindre*] (1725) 1: UNITED, CONJOINED 2: related to, made up of, or carried on by two or more in combination : JOINT — **conjointly** *adv*

conjugate \kən-ˈji-gəl also kən-ˈjü-/ *adj* [MF or L; MF, fr. L *conjugal*, fr. *conjug-*, *conjux* husband, wife, fr. *conjungere* to join, unite in marriage] (1345) : of or relating to the married state or to married persons and their relations : CONJUGAL — **conjugally** \kən-ˈji-gəl-ē, -ˈjü-/ *adv*

conjugate rights *n* *pl* (ca. 1891) : the sexual rights or privileges implied by and involved in the marriage relationship : the right of sexual intercourse between husband and wife

conjugant \kən-ˈji-gənt/ *n* (1910) : either of a pair of conjugating gametes or organisms

conjugate \kən-ˈji-gət, -ˈjə-gət/ *adj* [ME *conjugat*, fr. L *conjugatus*, *pp.* of *conjungere* to unite, fr. *com-* + *jungere* to join, fr. *jugum* yoke — more at Yoke] (15c) 1: joined together esp. in pairs : COUPLED 2: acting or operating as if joined 3: having features in common but opposite or inverse in some particular 4: relating to or being conjugate complex numbers (complex roots occurring in ~ pairs) 5: of an acid or base : related by the difference of a proton (the acid NH_4^+ and the base NH_3 are ~ to each other) 6: having the same derivation and therefore usu. some likeness in meaning (~ words) 7: of two leaves of a book : forming a single piece — **conjugately** *adv* — **conjugateness** *n*

conjugate \-ˈjə-gət/ *v* *t*ed; -gat-ing *v* (1530) 1: to give in prescribed order the various inflectional forms of — used esp. of a verb 2: to join together ~ *vi* 1: to become joined together 2: to pair and fuse in conjugation 3: to pair in synapsis

conjugate \same as/ *n* (ca. 1886) 1: something conjugate : a product of conjugating 2: CONJUGATE COMPLEX NUMBER 3: an element of a mathematical group that is equal to a given element of the group multiplied on the right by another element and on the left by the inverse of the latter element

conjugate complex number *n* (ca. 1909) : one of two complex numbers differing only in the sign of the imaginary part

conjugated \-ˈgə-təd/ *adj* (1882) 1: formed by the union of two compounds or united with another compound (~ bile acids) 2: relating to or containing a system of two double bonds separated by a single bond (~ fatty acids)

conjugated protein *n* (ca. 1909) : a compound of a protein with a nonprotein (hemoglobin is a conjugated protein) — compare SIMPLE PROTEIN

conjugation \kən-ˈjə-ˈgə-shən/ *n* (15c) 1: a schematic arrange-

ment of the inflectional forms of a verb 2: verb inflection 3: a class of verbs having the same type of inflectional forms (the weak ~) 4: a set of the simple or derivative inflectional forms of a verb esp. in Sanskrit or the Semitic languages (the causative ~) 5: the act of conjugating : the state of being conjugated 6: fusion of usu. similar gametes with ultimate union of their nuclei that among lower thallophytes replaces the typical fertilization of higher forms 7: temporary cytoplasmic union with exchange of nuclear material that is the usual sexual process in ciliated protozoans 8: the one-way transfer of DNA between bacteria in cellular contact — **conjugational** \-ˈʃnəl, -ˈʃnəl/ *adj* — **conjugationally** *adv*

conjunct \kən-ˈjəŋ(k)t/, kən-ˈ *adj* [ME, fr. L *conjunctus*, *pp.* of *conjungere*] (15c) 1: UNITED, JOINED 2: JOINT 3: relating to melodic progression by intervals of no more than a major second — compare *DE JUNCT*

conjunct \kən-ˈjəŋ(k)t/ *n* (1667) 1: something joined or associated with another; *specif.* : one of the components of a conjunction 2: an adverb or adverbial (as so, in addition, however, secondly) that indicates the speaker's or writer's assessment of the connection between linguistic units (as clauses)

conjunction \kən-ˈjəŋ(k)-shən/ *n* (14c) 1: the act or an instance of conjuncting : the state of being conjoined : COMBINATION 2: occurrence together in time or space : CONCURRENCE 3: a: the apparent meeting or passing of two or more celestial bodies in the same degree of the zodiac b: a configuration in which two celestial bodies have their least apparent separation 4: an uninflected linguistic form that joins together sentences, clauses, phrases, or words 5: a complex sentence in logic true if and only if each of its components is true — **conjunctional** \-ˈʃnəl, -ˈʃnəl/ *adj* — **conjunctionally** *adv*

conjunctiva \kən-ˈjəŋ(k)-ti-və, kən-ˈ *pl.* -væ or -væe \-ˈjə/ [NL, fr. LL, fem. of *conjunctivus* conjuncting, fr. L *conjunctus*] (14c) : the mucous membrane that lines the inner surface of the eyelids and is continued over the forepart of the eyeball — see EYE illustration — **conjunctival** \-ˈvəl/ *adj*

conjunctive \kən-ˈjəŋ(k)-ti-v/ *adj* (1581) 1: CONNECTIVE 2: CONJUNCT, CONJOINED 3: being or functioning like a conjunction 4: COPULATIVE 1a — conjunctive *n* — **conjunctively** *adv*

conjunctivitis \kən-ˈjəŋ(k)-ti-vi-tis/ *n* (1835) : inflammation of the conjunctiva

conjunction \kən-ˈjəŋ(k)-chən/ *n* (1605) 1: CONJUNCTION, UNION 2: a combination of circumstances or events usu. producing a crisis : JUNCTURE

conjur-ation \kən-ˈjü-rə-shən, kən-ˈ *n* (14c) 1: the act or process of conjuring : INCANTATION 2: an expression or trick used in conjuring 3: a solemn appeal : ADJURATION

conjure \vi 2 & *v* senses kən-ˈjər also kən-ˈ, *v* / kən-ˈjür/ *v* *t*ed; -jur-ing \kən-ˈjür-, kən-ˈ-*ing* [ME, fr. OF *conjurere*, fr. L *conjurare* to swear together, fr. *com-* + *jurare* to swear — more at JURY] *v* (13c) 1: to charge or entreat earnestly or solemnly 2: to summon by or as if by invocation or incantation 3: (1) : to affect or effect by or as if by magic (2) : IMAGINE CONTRIVE — often used with up (we ~ up our own metaphors for our own needs — R. J. Kaufmann) (3) : to bring to mind (words that ~ pleasant images) ~ *vi* 1: to summon a devil or spirit by invocation or incantation 2: to practice magical arts 3: to use a conjurer's tricks : JUGGLE

conjur-er or **conju-ror** \kən-ˈjər-ər, kən-ˈ *n* (14c) 1: one that practices magic arts : WIZARD 2: one that performs feats of sleight of hand and illusion : MAGICIAN, JUGGLER

conk \kɒŋk, kɒŋk/ *v* [E slang *conk* head] (1821) : to hit esp. on the head : KNOCK OUT

conk *n* [prob. alter. of *conch*] (1851) : the visible fruiting body of a bracket fungus; also : decay caused by such a fungus — **conky** \kɒŋk, kɒŋk/ *adj*

conk *v* [prob. imit.] (1918) 1: BREAK DOWN; esp. : STALL — usu. used with out (the motor suddenly ~ed out) 2: a: FAINT b: to go to sleep — usu. used with off or out (~ed out for a while after lunch) c: DIE (I caught pneumonia. I almost ~ed — Truman Capote)

conk *v* [prob. by shortening & alter. fr. *congolene* preparation used for straightening hair] (1950) : to straighten out (hair) usu. by the use of chemicals

conk *n* (1965) : a hairstyle in which the hair is straightened out and flattened down or lightly waved — called also *process*

conk-er \kən-ˈkər/ *n* [*conch* + *-er*, fr. the original use of a snail shell on a string in the game] (ca. 1886) 1: a horse chestnut esp. when used in conkers 2: a game in which each player swings a horse chestnut on a string to try to break one held by the opponent

con-mo-to \kən-ˈmō-(t)ō, kən-ˈ *adv* [It] (ca. 1854) : with movement : in a spirited manner — used as a direction in music

conduce \kən-ˈduːs/ *v* [alter. of ME *condūcere* to conduct, fr. MF *conduire*, fr. L *conducere* — more at CONDUCE] (1626) : to conduct or direct the steering of (as a ship)

conn *n* (1825) : the control exercised by one who conns a ship **connate** \kən-ˈnāt, kən-ˈ *adj* [LL *connatus*, *pp.* of *connasci* to be born together, fr. L *com-* + *nasci* to be born — more at NATION] (1641) 1: AKIN, CONGENIAL 2: INNATE, INBORN 3: congenitally or firmly united (~ leaves) 4: born or originated together 5: entrapped in sediments at the time of their deposition (~ water) — **connately** *adv*

connat-ural \kən-ˈnæt-əl, kən-ˈ *adj* [ML *connaturalis*, fr. L *com-* + *naturalis* natural] (1592) 1: connected by nature : INBORN 2: of the same nature — **connat-ural-ly** \-ˈnæt-əl-lee/ *adv*

connect \kən-ˈhekt/ *v* [ME, fr. L *connectere*, *connectere*, fr. *com-* + *nectere* to bind] *v* (15c) 1: to become joined (the two rooms ~ by a hallway) (ideas that ~ easily to form a theory) 2: to make a successful hit, shot, or throw (~ed for a home run) (~ed on 60 percent of his shots — N.Y. Times) 3: to have or establish a rapport (tried to ~ with the younger generation) ~ *vi* 1: to join or fasten together usu. by something intervening 2: to place or establish in relationship

connect \same as/ *n* — **connect-able** also **connect-ible** \-ˈhekt-ə-bəl/ *adj* — **connect-er** also **connect-er** \-ˈhekt-ər/ *n*

connected *adj* (1712) 1: joined or linked together 2: having the parts or elements logically linked together (presented a thoroughly ~ view of the problem) 3: related by blood or marriage 4: having